**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT NOTES**

**STATE GOVERNMENT**

1. **Virginia Constitution** – Defines and limits 3 equal branches of state government
2. **Virginia Legislative Branch** – Virginia General Assembly (makes state laws)
3. **Virginia Executive Branch** – Governor (executes state laws)
4. **Virginia Judicial Branch** – Virginia Supreme Court (interprets state laws)
5. **Virginia Constitution amendment process** –1) proposal, 2) ratification by VA voters
6. **2 Houses of general Assembly** – House of Delegates and Virginia Senate
7. **State law making process** – 1) proposal 2) committee 3) debate 4) vote 5) signed by governor
8. **VA Governor** – Terry McAuliffe
9. **VA governor’s term** – 4 years
10. **VA Attorney general** – elected by voters to 4 year term. Is the lead lawyer for the state
11. **Governor’s Cabinet** - advisors (appointed by governor) runs VA executive departments.
12. **State of the Commonwealth Address** – Governor’s annual speech to General Assembly where he proposes laws.
13. **Budget** – Plan for spending money
14. **State budget** – Submitted by governor and approved by General Assembly
15. **Purpose of Governor, Cabinet Secretaries, State Agencies/Commissions, Regulatory Boards** – 1. Administer and enforce state laws 2. Regulate business and economy 3. Provide services
16. **Governor’s Roles** – 1. Chief of State (represents all Virginias) 2. Chief Legislator (proposes/signs/vetoes state bills) 3. Chief Administrator (runs state bureaucracy) 4. Party Chief (leads his political party) 5. Commander in Chief (runs VA National Guard)
17. **4 levels of state court** – 1. Districts Courts (lowest) 2. Circuit Courts 3. VA Court of Appeals 4. VA Supreme Court (highest)
18. **Types of District Courts** – Small Claims Court (small lawsuits), General District Court (misdemeanors), Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court (juveniles and families)
19. **Circuit Court Jurisdiction** – Original: Felonies and large lawsuits - Appellate: cases heard in District Courts
20. **VA Court of Appeals Jurisdiction** – Appellate on cases heard in Circuit Court
21. **VA Supreme Court** – 1. Judicial Review on state laws 2. Final appellate jurisdiction in state

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

1. **Local government powers come from** – VA Constitution and VA General Assembly
2. **City Charter** – lists a city’s powers
3. **Types of Local government** – 1. Incorporated town 2. City 3. County
4. **Roles of local government** – 1. Make ordinances (local laws) 2. Adopt a local budget
5. **Town Legislative Branch** – Town Council (elected by voters)
6. **Town Executive Branch** – Mayor (elected) and/or Town Manager (hired by Town Council)
7. **City Legislative Branch** – City Council (elected by voters)
8. **City Executive Branch** – Mayor (elected) and/or City Manager (hired by City Council)
9. **County Legislative Branch** – Board of Supervisors (elected)
10. **County Executive Branch** – Chairman of the Board of Supervisors (elected) and/or County Manager (hired by Board of Supervisors)
11. **Elected local officials** – School Board, Sheriff, Clerk of the Court, Commissioner of Revenue, Treasurer, Commonwealth’s Attorney
12. **Local government powers** – Enforce state and local laws, promote public health, protect public safety, educate children, protect the environment, regulate land use, levy and collect taxes
13. **Local government’s international involvement** – public health during a pandemic, public safety after terrorist attack, economic development in a global economy, protecting environment and wildlife